

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

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Nutrition First

"We cannot teach lessons or make good citizens out of hungry children," says Mrs. Hugh Bradford, National President. "Parent-teacher associations have in the past stood between children and starvation by providing a hot luncheon at school.

"The coming winter months will challenge us to take care of many more children, either in the school or in the homes. Parent-teacher leaders should approach this problem under intelligent guidance from nutrition specialists."

The recent Child Health Recovery Conference has focused public attention on the appalling number of malnourished children in the United States.

According to Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, there is today actual record in the country of 6,000,000 children on relief, and the exact number of such children needing relief is no doubt far in excess of the 6,000,000.

The call to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers for aid in remedying this tragic situation is loud and insistent. This year as never before, the nutritional needs of children are taking precedence over all other activities, as parent-teacher organizations join with other community agencies in promoting the National Child Health Recovery Program.

Dr. Lillian R. Smith, Summer Round-Up Chairman, urges local units to continue nutrition work started last year and to cooperate to the fullest with health agencies in their community in furthering the recovery program.

"In peace as well as in war the mind must be kept in motion."

Listen In!

November 13

Mrs. Hugh Bradford, President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, will broadcast over a nationwide hook-up of the National Broadcasting Company, on Monday afternoon, November 13, from 2:15 to 2:30, Pacific Coast Time, speaking from the San Francisco studio of NBC.

"What Radio Means to Parents and Children of the Next Generation" will be her subject.

N.C.P.T. Broadcasts

Beginning January 16, 1934, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will broadcast a series of 12 weekly parent education radio programs, over a nationwide hook-up of the National Broadcasting Company.

The programs will be broadcast each Tuesday afternoon, from 3:30 to 4:00 o'clock, Eastern Standard Time, over the basic red network of NBC, with WEAf, New York, as the key station.

The programs will be offered to as many supplementary stations of this network as may be able to carry them.

The National Broadcasting Company assures the National Congress that this program will be carried as a sustaining program feature and will have no connection whatsoever with sponsored advertising.

"If we expended one-half of the money spent with criminals on playgrounds, with facilities for the normal expression of those little lives, we wouldn't have half as many people go into prison."—*Chairman, National Crime Commission.*

Citizens Councils

Mrs. James Fitts Hill, President of the Alabama Congress, gives an interesting account of the activities of the citizenship committee in organizing Citizens Councils in the state of Alabama:

All citizens are called upon to help. Local needs determine the direction the work takes. Sixty out of 67 counties in Alabama have been contacted by our citizenship committee. Twenty-five counties are definitely organized; many others are in process of organization; others are distributing material.

The Alabama Congress recognizes in these Citizens Councils great possibilities for good and is working for a permanent organization which will invite all forces of the state interested in the welfare of Alabama citizens and their children in the study of any problem which concerns their welfare. The committee believes that the most vital activity they can undertake is to arouse in every citizen in Alabama a sense of responsibility for wise government and to cause him to exercise his right to vote.

Mrs. Bradford requests that states and communities send information concerning their activities for Citizens Councils to the central Committee on Citizens Councils for Constructive Economy of the National Municipal League, 309 East 34th Street, New York City, as well as to the National Congress.

National Office Visitors

Mrs. Frederick M. Hosmer, Second Vicepresident, en route to the West Virginia Congress state convention in Logan.

Mrs. Robbins Gilman, Motion Picture Chairman, following the Motion Picture Appreciation Conference held by the U. S. Office of Education, in Washington, D. C.

• • • National Committees At Work • • •

Homemaking

To those who have been inclined to classify home economics for highschool girls as a fad or a frill, figures obtained from surveys in Missouri, Nevada, and Idaho, will come as disappointing evidence to the contrary, according to Dr. Adelaide Baylor, National Chairman of Homemaking, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

These figures show that 74 percent of the students enrolled in vocational classes in home economics in Missouri highschools during the past seven years are actually making use of the knowledge acquired in these courses. Of this group 37 percent are married and conducting homes of their own, 36 percent are helping at home in some capacity, and approximately one percent are engaged in wage-earning pursuits allied with homemaking. The significant fact is that the entire 74 percent are now making use of the knowledge and training secured in their home economics courses.

No less conclusive are the figures from a similar survey made in Nevada, which show that 71 percent of the girls who were enrolled in vocational classes in home economics during the period 1926-1931, were at the close of that period engaged in homemaking pursuits—45 percent as wives and mothers in their own homes, and 26 percent as helpers in the home. The remaining 29 percent, who are either attending college or working, spend part of their time in home pursuits.

Even more convincing, also, are the figures from Idaho, where 77 percent of the girls who left home economics courses in 12 representative highschools were at the end of a period of 10 years engaged in homemaking.

These figures, which are probably representative of the country as a whole, show that girls not only use the information and training gained in highschool home economics courses, but that they use it almost immediately.

Mental Hygiene

The maintenance of morale among the unemployed is suggested as a project for mental hygiene chairmen by Dr. George K. Pratt, National Chairman of Mental Hygiene, in a recent letter to state chairmen. "The customary programs of mental hygiene for parents would be strengthened by the development of a morale program," Dr. Pratt writes. "Today as always childhood patterns of behavior and personality are being shaped by parental attitudes, but when these attitudes are being distorted by the worries, bewilderments, and anxieties that come from trying to adjust to chaotic conditions, then we need to help parents more than ever to keep their attitudes sound and healthy. . . . Scrutinize the ways in which unemployment relief is being administered in your community and do what you can to insure that these methods are such as to bolster flagging morale and maintain selfrespect and self-confidence . . . Push the organization of study groups in mental hygiene, using the official leaflet, *Children and Their Parents*, for a guide."

Physical Education

"Are school athletics managed sanely by the school, for the sake of boys and girls, or by the false pride of Main Street and for the sake of entertaining the public?" asks Carl L. Schrader, National Chairman of Physical Education. "Unless every child is involved in the program of physical education, of which athletics is but a part, the money spent on coaches and equipment is misappropriated." Mr. Schrader believes that the report card should indicate the progress in physical education as in other subjects and urges local chairmen to inform themselves of the status of physical education in their elementary schools.

Juvenile Protection

"Important things that affect children and young people are happening daily," says Miss Alida Bowler, National Chairman of Juvenile Protection. Pointing out that the ranks of unemployed youth in every community are being increased under NRA code agreements, Miss Bowler declares, "Every P.T.A. has an obligation to these boys and girls, to see to it that their community offers them opportunity to make profitable use of their time, so that they may escape character demoralization and personality maladjustments that would constitute permanent handicaps. Communities may offer—

1. Additional education, including both academic courses and vocational training.
2. Diversified recreation, including ample library facilities, athletic sports, dramatics, pageantry, music, community dances, club activities, handicrafts, and hobbies.
3. Work relief projects for the older boys and girls, as part of a work and training program."

Miss Bowler suggests also that P.T.As. give attention to child labor, needed services to dependent and handicapped children, and care of delinquent minors.

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An invitation to partake of "Food for Thought," on the subject of *Youth and This Community* has been issued by the Boise, Idaho, Council of Parent-Teacher Associations, in a series of three council meetings planned to investigate and correlate the work being done for young people in Boise.

The mayor, school board, junior league, probate court, police department, and various organizations working for young people are participating in the meetings. The invitation directs special attention to a statement of the objectives of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Author Commends P.T.A.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher, noted author and parent education advisor for the Vermont Congress of Parents and Teachers, in a recent letter to that organization, writes: "The parent-teacher association has always been a most useful and valuable element in American life. But it has now become an indispensable element. From every point of view—school, child, teacher, parent—the work done by the P.T.A. is invaluable, essential to this country."

"The action and inter-action of these groups of parents and teachers on schools and on each other has for years been wholesome and stimulating."

"But now the influence of the P.T.A. on public opinion constitutes for that organization both a great responsibility and a great privilege."

New State Presidents

Iowa—Mrs. Charles Pye, 415 Shops Bldg., Des Moines

Massachusetts—Mrs. Paul C. Kelley, 132 Summit Avenue, Brookline

Mississippi—Mrs. C. C. McDonald, Bay St. Louis

Missouri—Mrs. Warren Mabrey, 421a N. Frederick, Cape Girardeau

Ohio—Mrs. Emmet C. Stopher, 132 Linden Road, Kent

Oregon—Mrs. William Kletzer, 3146 N. E. 10th Avenue, Portland

Councils

Council workers will be interested to know that a new correspondence course on the Organization, Conduct, and Program of Councils is now available from the Education Division of the National Congress. The registration fee, including a copy of the *Parent-Teacher Manual*, on which the course is based, is \$1. Groups will enjoy studying this course and council presidents will find it particularly helpful.

Corrections to Annual Summary of Parent-Teacher Information. Please correct your copy as follows—Page 21, add North Carolina, Conference at University of North Carolina, 1 week. Page 23, under Colorado, take out sentence beginning "does away with membership and child welfare requirements." Colorado state standards include requirements for membership and *Child Welfare Magazine*, but these differ from the National standards.

An Editorial

A review of the new *Publicity Manual* was recently published as an editorial in the *Star-Telegram*, Lakeland, Florida, under the caption "An Excellent Booklet." Pointing out that the book addresses itself primarily to parent-teacher workers, the review states that "most of its contents are valuable suggestions for any inexperienced person who wishes to do newspaper writing."

Parent Education Program

"The University of Michigan takes pleasure in announcing the fifth annual parent education program arranged and conducted by the Extension Division in cooperation with the Michigan Congress of Parents and Teachers and the School of Education."

"The program again consists of four parts: (a) the fourth annual Parent Education Institute to be held in Ann Arbor on November 2, 3, and 4; (b) lectures and conferences on parent education in Hartland, Pontiac, and Benton Harbor-St. Joseph; (c) the Parents' Hour radio program broadcast from the Campus of the University of Michigan for 19 Sundays of the University year at 6 o'clock, beginning October 1; and (d) a plan for the formation of parent education study groups throughout the state. . . .

"The Parent Education Program Committee of the Michigan Congress of Parents and Teachers in charge of the program this year consists of Mrs. D. W. Stewart, President; Mrs. Fred Raymond, Acting Chairman of Founders Day; Mr. W. G. Robinson; and Dr. C. A. Fisher, Assistant Director of University Extension."

—*Univ. of Michigan Bulletin.*

• • • Letters to the National President • • •

"Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to tell you she deeply appreciates your kind expression of interest in the movement for the mobilization of human needs."—*Malvina T. Scheider, Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt.*

"Your recent appeal to President Roosevelt, in behalf of 'a program of education which will insure the rights of children to be educated for citizenship and for life' will undoubtedly carry inspiration and new courage to the spirit of all those whose lives are dedicated to the cause of free public education in a democracy."—*C. A. Pollock, President, Central Ohio Schoolmasters' Club.*

"I have before me the release on the Parent-Teacher News for October 1, 1933. I wish to commend the parent-teacher association very much indeed for the fine attitude which is set forth in this statement. I believe that you have taken an entirely defensible attitude relative to federal aid as an emergency matter . . ."—*George F. Zook, U. S. Commissioner of Education.*



"I want to express my cordial appreciation of the statement in behalf of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers at the hearing on the Newspaper Code in Washington on Friday, September 22. It was a most timely and effective statement from a group far better qualified to speak of the effect of newspaper selling as is at present practised than are the newspaper representatives who advocated no restrictions whatever. I trust that our efforts will be successful in securing some real standards in the code which is finally approved."—*Courtney Dimoviddie, General Secretary, National Child Labor Committee.*

News From State Branches

Idaho

Congratulations, Idaho! Ten times as many members on October 15, 1933, as on October, 1932! This is the record of the *Idaho* Congress of Parents and Teachers, as reported by Mrs. John E. Hayes, President.

What are other states doing?

Hawaii

Kawanakoa, *Hawaii*, P.T.A. is purchasing 20 rest cots for undernourished children to use. They are also providing playground equipment for the primary and elementary grades.

Illinois

Illinois has recently published a 30-page mimeographed booklet containing plans of work of all state committee chairmen and three pages of office procedure which include information for all state board members.

Nebraska

"Rural Education Looking Forward" is the title of a new pamphlet issued by the State Department of Public Instruction, *Nebraska*, under the direction of Charles W. Taylor, State Superintendent, and former Kindergarten Chairman for the National Congress, and Chloe C. Baldridge, Director of Rural Education. One chapter is devoted to the parent-teacher association. This bulletin is for the use of normal training students, school officers, rural teachers, and school patrons.

Vermont

"The Child and His Community" was the subject of Mrs. B. F. Langworthy's address at the *Vermont* convention, which was broadcast from Rutland.

Wanted: Closing ceremonies which have been used at state conventions. If your convention closed with a challenge to the delegates or some special feature or ceremony, please send copies for a loan packet to the Research and Information Division of the National Office.

Alaska

A Congress unit in every community and a membership of 1000 is the goal of *Alaska* Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. There are now six Congress units in Alaska, with a total membership of 576. Mrs. Forbes L. Baker, Fairbanks is the newly elected president of the Alaska Council.

Kansas

Girl Reserve and Hi-Y activities in the senior highschool will receive the aid and encouragement of the new senior highschool parent-teacher association, Dodge City, *Kansas*.

The *Kansas* Congress of Parents and Teachers has prepared a general information correspondence course for leaders and members of local associations. It consists of six lessons based on state and National Congress publications.

Utah

"There are 39 parent-teacher associations in Salt Lake City, *Utah*. Thirty-seven have room mothers. Two have just been organized and will have room mothers soon."—Mrs. J. S. Twigey, Room Mother and Welfare Chairman.

Georgia

The Georgia Congress state board made a pilgrimage to the old home of Mrs. Alice McLellan Birney at Marietta, Georgia, for its fall board meeting.

California

"Let's hear it . . . Weep on my shoulder, but don't kick my shins" is the inviting title of a column conducted by Mrs. Joseph E. Morcombe, publicity chairman, *California* Congress, in the *Parent-Teacher Journal* published by the Tenth District. "It is not intended as a 'question and answer' feature," declares Mrs. Morcombe, "but to provide an outlet for peevish, hurts, criticisms, or downright roars."

Tennessee

A staff of 39 public health nurses of the City Department of Health in Memphis, *Tennessee*, have contributed greatly to the success of the Summer Round-Up campaign. Special emphasis was placed on the part the family physician can take in this work. During the spring and summer 1933 a series of preschool clinics were organized in school communities known to be unable to pay for this service.

Collecting delinquent taxes may be out of the ordinary line of parent-teacher work, but Bristol, *Tennessee*, P.T.A. members have gone out to collect delinquent taxes this year. They hope to save the city schools. There was a possibility that schools might not open in September because of the \$116,500 owed the city in delinquent street assessments.

New Jersey

Fifteen local publicity chairmen received awards for sending an article each week during the school year to the Camden, *New Jersey*, Courier-Post.

Mississippi

"Telling the World," a Parent-Teacher Publicity Playlet, by Mrs. Henry J. Meyer, State Publicity Chairman, was presented at the *Mississippi* Congress convention in Hattiesburg in October.

A bouquet from the First Lady of the Land for parent-teacher members! Mrs. Roosevelt, writing in a recent issue of *Woman's Home Companion*, says of parent-teacher members: "These are the people who are really America's ablest citizens. American ideals and standards still mean something alive and real to these parents and no sacrifice is too great to achieve them."

"Children's Progress—1833-1933" is the title of an attractively illustrated booklet recently published by the United States Children's Bureau for the Century of Progress Exposition.